

Appl. No. 10/760,561
Amtd. Dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 24, 2005

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page Nos. 13 – 14, from Line No. 18 (Page No. 13) through Line No. 6 (Page No. 14), please amend the paragraph there appearing to read, as follows:

"It should be noted that longitudinally-aligned ribs 24 preferably have a substantially uniform latitudinal distance therebetween and that latitudinally-aligned ribs 25 have a substantially uniform longitudinal distance therebetween. In this regard, the preferred latitudinal distance ranges from a dimension greater than zero (0) to about 5 millimeters (mm) and the preferred longitudinal distance ranges from a dimension greater than zero (0) to about 1.75 mm. The resulting water-receiving apertures thus function to keep debris with structural dimensions larger than those here specified from entering the gutter. It will be recalled that LEAPSCREENER brand water-accepting grids or screens have proven to be highly effective for keeping debris from entering gutter systems. However, the water-receiving apertures so defined by longitudinally-aligned ribs 24 and latitudinally-aligned ribs 25 are so dimensioned so as to also enable gravity-defying water films to form. It will thus be noted that the longitudinally-aligned ribs preferably have a substantially uniform latitudinal distance therebetween and the latitudinally-aligned ribs preferably have a substantially uniform longitudinal distance therebetween, the latitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 5 millimeters and the longitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 1.75 millimeters. Together, the longitudinal and latitudinal distances

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function to enhance (water) film formability and debris filtering adjacent the gutter screen."

On Page No. 25, at Line No. 1, please insert certain antecedent claim-supporting language, as follows:

"It will thus be understood that the present invention inherently teaches a gutter system for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent an outfitted roof border region, which system comprises a gutter, a gutter screen, and a gutter screen termination trim. The gutter comprises a roof-engaging portion and a substantially horizontal gutter rim portion. The gutter rim portion comprises an inner rim edge and an outer rim edge. The roof-engaging portion is affixed adjacent the roof border region, the outfitting the roof border region.

The gutter screen comprises a roof-engaging edge, a gutter-engaging edge, two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, a plurality of longitudinally-aligned ribs extending from the roof-engaging edge to the gutter-engaging edge, and a plurality of latitudinally-aligned ribs extending intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges. The longitudinally-aligned ribs intersect the latitudinally-aligned ribs to form a series of intersection points all of which define a substantially planar water-accepting grid.

The gutter screen termination trim comprises a vertically planar first breaker edge, a vertically planar second breaker edge, a select positioning breaker edge, a select tension-breaking breaker edge, and a horizontally planar screen-receiving region intermediate the first and second breaker edges. The select breaker edges are each

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selected from the group consisting of the first and second breaker edges. In other words, the trim is upendable or reversible. In any event, however, the first and second breaker edges are coplanar. The screen-receiving region comprises an edge-receiving fold comprising a substantially U-shaped edge and two substantially parallel edge-engaging regions. The edge-receiving fold receives the gutter-engaging edge and thus sandwiches the gutter-engaging edge intermediate the edge-engaging regions.

The roof-engaging edge is also affixed adjacent the roof border region and the edge-receiving fold and gutter-engaging edge are affixed in superior adjacency to the gutter rim portion. The select positioning breaker edge extends downwardly snugly adjacent the inner rim edge and thus, the U-shaped edge is spatially located in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge. The select tension-breaking breaker edge extends upwardly opposite the select positioning breaker edge for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting grid into the gutter.

Understood from an alternative perspective, the present invention discloses a gutter screen termination trim usable in combination with a gutter assembly of the type previously specified for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent an outfitted roof border region. In this regard, it will be noted that the gutter screen termination trim is usable in combination with the gutter rim portion. The gutter rim portion comprises an inner rim edge and an outer rim edge, which outer rim edge inherently comprises an (outer) edge plane. The select positioning breaker edge is designed for positioned placement in snug adjacency to the inner rim edge and the U-

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shaped edge is designed for fixed placement in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge,
the edge plane being substantially tangent to the U-shaped edge.”